



October 11, 2017

Sent by Email and Mail

Chief Lynette Tsakoza  
Prophet River First Nation  
Box 3250  
Fort Nelson, BC  
V0C 1R0

**Re: Fort Nelson Community Forest Open House & Forum**

The Fort Nelson Community Forest Partnership is hosting an Open House and Forum on Thursday, October 19, 2017 to provide information on community forests in B.C. and specific information related to the Fort Nelson Community Forest. The program for the event is attached.

We are extending a personal invitation to you and the Prophet River First Nation Council and also interested community members to attend this initial information session. It is also our intent to provide further opportunities for direct engagement with Prophet River First Nation within the near future.

An invitation was received from the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for the parties (Fort Nelson First Nation and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality) on March 17, 2017, to establish a Community Forest Agreement (CFA).

The CFA represents a significant undertaking in terms of rejuvenating the forest industry in the Fort Nelson Forest District. The CFA is for a term of 25 years with an area based tenure of 185,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year of allowable annual cut. Upon successful completion of the application this would be the largest community forest in B.C.

The Fort Nelson Community Forest Partnership is very proud of the excellent working relationship that has allowed us to diligently pursue a Community Forest Agreement. If further information is required please contact us directly.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Stevenson  
Special Projects Officer  
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality  
(250) 774-2541

Katherine Capot-Blanc  
Acting Director, Department of Lands & Resources  
Fort Nelson First Nation  
(250) 774-6313



Heather Gairdner <heather.gairdner@fnnation.ca>

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## Fort Nelson Community Forest Open House / Forum

1 message

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**Jack Stevenson** <JStevenson@northernrockies.ca>

Mon, Oct 30, 2017 at 2:43 PM

To: Shelley Ergang <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Heather Gairdner <heather.gairdner@fnnation.ca>

Hello Shelley:

The Community Forest Open House / Forum on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> was well attended by the Community. There were approximately 65 folks in attendance at the Phoenix Theatre.

I have attached some additional information from the event:

1. Program;
2. Brochure on what a Community Forest is all about;
3. Jim Snetsinger's Presentation on the Community Forest Agreement (CFA) Process Steps;
4. Mike Trepanier's Presentation on the Timber Area Selection Process; and
5. Map of the Selected Timber Areas.

There was a demonstrated level of passion with regard to forestry when you have an event like we did. This was reflected in the negative opinions of folks with regard to Canfor. I didn't sense any negativity with regard to the community forest. There is more that we need to do to cultivate a higher level of support.

Themes or questions at the meeting surfaced around the following:

1. Can the Community Forest (CF) have a stated objective of wildfire protection too?
2. Recreational objectives for the CF were discussed. There is no doubt that once the CF is up and running we can do more to add to recreational opportunities for the community;
3. Export of raw logs – the community is adamant about not allowing the export of raw logs. They want to see processing done in the community;
4. Educational / training objectives: the CF will ensure that we educate the community with regard to CF's. In addition we will ensure that we provide training to increase harvesting capacity in our area. A lot of this capacity has been lost over the last 10 years;

5. Appurtenancy came up in the discussions and Canfor's non-use of its two tenures since 2008;
  
6. The size of our tenure came up in the questions. Some folks wondered why it couldn't be larger (even though it is the largest CF tenure offered by the province without a MPB (mountain pine beetle uplift). It was stated that it was only one piece of the puzzle and we very much have to walk before we run;
  
7. Medical issue: one question asked whether funds generated by the CF could support medical issues such as women who are pregnant having to leave the community to have their babies. It is costly for many couples;
  
8. Chamber had a question related to do more engagement with the community much like we did for the Official Community Plan.
  
9. Partnership between FNFN and the NRRM. I think that this is well accepted and was demonstrated well at the Open House / Forum.
  
10. Can we manage the CF for more than just timber; and
  
11. A question re why the Prophet River Band was not part of the CF partnership.

If you would like more information on the Open House / Forum please let me know.

How would Prophet River First Nation like to be informed about the Fort Nelson Community Forest in the future. We would be pleased to organize a meeting in Prophet River with Chief and Council or we can do it by Conference Call. As things evolve further I will continue to update you by email.

Best regards,

Jack

**Jack A. Stevenson, MScF, Special Projects Officer**

**Northern Rockies Regional Municipality - BC's First!**

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Municipal web page: [www.northernrockies.ca](http://www.northernrockies.ca)

Tourism web page: [www.tourismnorthernrockies.ca](http://www.tourismnorthernrockies.ca)

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## 5 attachments

 **BrochureCFA.pdf**  
733K

 **CFA Open House Community Forum Program.pdf**  
194K

 **Oct19\_CFA\_map\_final\_Openhouse.pdf**  
14979K

 **Speaker 5 J Snetsinger IFS.pdf**  
631K

 **Speaker 6 - Trepanier.pdf**  
1080K

